

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 12935 01 OF 02 090136Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 /069 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1945

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 12935

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PROPOSED AGREEMENT ON FJP
PROFESSIONALIZATION

REF: (A) MEXICO 1315; (B) MEXICO 9864

1. SUMMARY: AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE (AG) HAS FINALLY INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO MOVE AHEAD TO PROFESSIONALIZE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE (FJP) AGENTS WITH NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, DUE TO POLITICAL SENSITIVITY AT THIS TIME, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS INITIAL PROFESSIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED UNDER FIELD SUPPORT PROJECT. EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO AMEND EXISTING AGREEMENT FOR FIELD SUPPORT, DTD 15 MAY 78, TRANSFERRING \$300,000 NOW PROGRAMMED FOR PROFESSIONALIZATION OF FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE FOR FY 1978 TO FIELD SUPPORT PROJECT, INCREASING LATTER TO TOTAL \$1 MILLION. END SUMMARY.

2. SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMING OFFICE IN LATE 1976, AG'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER, FERNANDO BAEZA, INDICATED IN A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE ATTACHE AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES WAS DIS-
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 12935 01 OF 02 090136Z

SATISFIED WITH PROFESSIONAL LEVEL OF FJP AGENTS. BAEZA AND FLORES FELT THAT MUCH OF THE INEFFICIENCY AND CORRUPTION IN FJP RANKS COULD BE TRACED TO POOR SELECTION CRITERIA, SHORT AND INADEQUATE AGENT TRAINING, POOR SUPERVISION, AND WOEFULLY INADEQUATE COMPENSATION. BAEZA SAID THAT HE AND FLORES BELIEVED THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION INVOLVED CONTRACTING AN EXPERIENCED POLICE MANAGEMENT

CONSULTANT AND BEGINNING WHAT WOULD HAVE TO BE LONG-TERM EFFORTS TO EFFECT NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS.

3. EFFORTS OF NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE ATTACHE AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS TO KEEP THIS SUBJECT ON A FRONT BURNER MET WITH DIMINISHING SUCCESS AS BAEZA AND FLORES LEARNED MORE OF MEXICO CITY POLITICAL REALITIES. WHILE THEIR ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEM DID NOT CHANGE, THEY CAME TO REALIZE THAT THE PRESENCE OF U.S. POLICE MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS, EVEN PRIVATE CONTRACTORS, WORKING INSIDE THE AG OFFICE WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO EVEN THE CURRENT MEXICAN ADMINISTRATION.

4. DESPITE THIS APPARENT SETBACK, REF (A) IN JANUARY RECOMMENDED RESERVING \$300,000 IN FY 1978 FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE, NOTING THAT THIS MIGHT WELL BECOME OUR SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT BECAUSE IT SOUGHT TO INTRODUCE BASIC CHANGES IN MEXICAN NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES THROUGH TECHNIQUES SUCCESSFULLY USED IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. REF (B) IN JUNE NOTED THAT PROJECT HAD STILL NOT "TAKEN OFF" BUT ASKED THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS BE RESERVED IN FY 1980 BUDGET IN THE HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS THEN UNDERWAY WOULD RESOLVE IMPASS.

5. DURING LATE JULY CONFERENCE IN LIMA, BAEZA INFORMED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 12935 01 OF 02 090136Z

NARCOTICS ATTACHE THAT GOM HAD DECIDED THAT, WHILE PRESENCE OF U.S. POLICE MANAGEMENT SPECIALISTS WOULD NOT FLOAT, IT COULD CONTRACT JEAN NEPOTE, RETIRING SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERPOL, TO STUDY FJP MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO EFFECT NEEDED IMPROVEMENT. THIS IS, WE BELIEVE, A MAJOR STEP FORWARD THAT MERITS WHOLEHEARTED USG SUPPORT. IN ADDITION TO HIS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA, NEPOTE THOROUGHLY UNDERSTANDS U.S. NARCOTICS PROGRAM AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT MESH WITH OUR OWN PRIORITIES. HIS LONG-STANDING PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR NARCOTICS ATTACHE SHOULD FURTHER ASSURE ADEQUATE USG INPUT.

6. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE ATTACHE, BAEZA UNDERSCORED POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THESE INITIAL EFFORTS PARTICULARLY IF PROGRAMMED UNDER NEW LETTER OF AGREEMENT. A PROJECT THIS SENSITIVE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DRAW FIRE FROM THE FOREIGN SECRETARIAT WHICH MUST CLEAR ALL AGREEMENT TEXTS. A MORE EXPEDITIOUS, SIMPLER COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO FUND INITIAL ACTIVITIES UNDER FIELD SUPPORT PROJECT. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH

ABOVE ASSESSMENT.

7. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE TO SIGN AN AMENDED AGREEMENT WITH THE GOM PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS CONTRACT WITH NEPOTE AND A SUFFICIENT RESERVE THAT CAN BE CALLED UPON TO IMPLEMENT NEPOTE'S INITIAL RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RECRUITMENT TESTING PROCEDURES AND SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF TRAINING PROGRAMS AT THE FJP ACADEMY. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS IN ADVANCE WILL DEMONSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS PROJECT AND ENSURE THAT NEPOTE'S WORK WILL LEAD TO GENUINE CHANGES AND NOT BE PERCEIVED AS JUST A STUDY UNLIKELY TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MEXICO 12935 01 OF 02 090136Z

8. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE EMBASSY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 12935 02 OF 02 090136Z

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R 090023Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1946

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 12935

TO AMEND CURRENT LETTER OF AGREEMENT, DTD 15 MAY 78,
FOR FIELD SUPPORT PROJECT INCREASING AMOUNT FROM \$700,000
TO \$1 MILLION. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

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